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# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania/Greece

DATE DISTR. 30 DEC 50

SUBJECT Appeal of Association of Greeks from Rumania to International Red Cross for Aid for Repatriates

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## SOURCE

On 1 November 1950 the Association of Greeks from Rumania, an organization of Greeks repatriated to Greece, addressed the following appeal for assistance to the International Red Cross in Athens:

"Knowing the profound humanitarian spirit in which you support the aid which you give to all of those who appeal to the International Red Cross, we wish to inform you that, unfortunately, this year, the situation of the Greek refugees from Rumania has become still worse. Since the month of March, in consequence of the impossibility of obtaining employment in which Hellenism in Rumania finds itself, and because of the fear of being arbitrarily imprisoned at any moment, these Greek people seek, by every means, to obtain an exit visa from the Rumanian Government in order to reach Greece as soon as possible.

"The fact that Switzerland has been obliged to surrender the responsibility, which she had so generously accepted, of protecting the Greek citizens of Rumania, has contributed not a little to this atmosphere of understandable panic. All these unfortunates have preferred to abandon whatever remained of their belongings and to leave, carrying with them only forty kilograms of baggage per person. That means that they left behind even their bed mattresses and blankets so that they could take what seemed to them more necessary, namely clothes and linen. Once in Greece, those who have close or well-to-do relatives refuse all aid from the State. The others are lodged more or less haphazardly, for the time being, considering the ever-increasing number of arrivals. As for food, the Greek Red Cross has seen to that.

"Nevertheless, those who arrived with forty kilograms are completely without means. They cannot buy cigarettes, soap, or medicines. In Lavrion one hundred small houses are now under construction for them, because at the present moment they live in tents. Over forty persons have become ill from the cold. It appears that this tragic situation will have to continue for a month and a half at least. The same situation exists for those in and around Athens. The number of Greek refugees from Rumania since 1947, according to our count, amounts to 5,000. Of these, 800 have left for Australia, the two Americas and various European countries. Of the remaining 4,200, nearly 2,000 are more or less independent, that is, they live with relatives, have found work, or have some money left. There now remain 2,200 of which approximately 1,500 are in Athens, 300 in Lavrion, 100 in Syra, 45 in Sparta,

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200 in Tinos and various others at Chios, Salonica, Jannina, et cetera. This number of course increases from month to month and causes new complications in the matter of housing. Greece has been ravaged to such an extent by ten years of war and has so many victims to rehabilitate that it is only natural that she is not yet in a position to help all those whom fate has unloaded on her.

"For this reason, Mr. President, we are making a new appeal to you, asking you to take into consideration our present request as soon as possible and to come to our aid with everything that you deem necessary in order to alleviate the alarming situation of many people who are worthy of being helped."

President,

P. Roma

Secretary-General,

B. Moussou

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